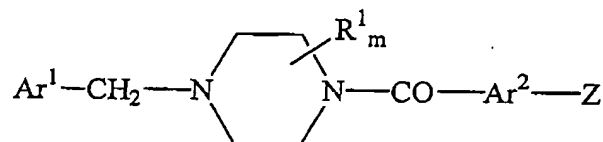


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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition thereof, wherein:

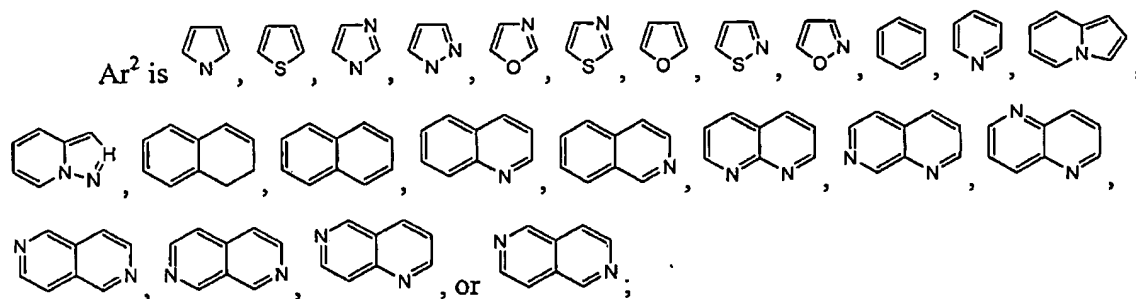
$\text{Ar}^1$  is an aryl group substituted with 0-5 non-interfering substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, acyl, aroyl, heteroaryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl, heteroalkynyl, heteroalkylaryl, NH-aroyl, halo, OR,  $\text{NR}_2$ , SR, SOR,  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}$ , OCOR, NRCOR,  $\text{NRCONR}_2$ ,  $\text{NRCOOR}$ ,  $\text{OCONR}_2$ , RCO, COOR, alkyl-OOCR,  $\text{SO}_3\text{R}$ ,  $\text{CONR}_2$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}_2$ ,  $\text{NRSO}_2\text{NR}_2$ , CN,  $\text{CF}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_3\text{Si}$ , and  $\text{NO}_2$ , wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl or heteroaryl, and wherein two of said optional substituents on adjacent positions can be joined to form a fused, optionally substituted aromatic or nonaromatic, saturated or unsaturated ring which contains 3-8 members;

each  $\text{R}^1$  is independently a noninterfering substituent selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, acyl, aroyl, heteroaryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl, heteroalkynyl, heteroalkylaryl, NH-aroyl, halo, OR,  $\text{NR}_2$ , SR, SOR,  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}$ , OCOR, NRCOR,  $\text{NRCONR}_2$ ,  $\text{NRCOOR}$ ,  $\text{OCONR}_2$ , RCO, COOR, alkyl-OOCR,  $\text{SO}_3\text{R}$ ,  $\text{CONR}_2$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}_2$ ,  $\text{NRSO}_2\text{NR}_2$ , CN,  $\text{CF}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_3\text{Si}$ , and  $\text{NO}_2$ , wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl or heteroaryl and two of  $\text{R}^1$  on adjacent positions can be joined to form a fused, optionally substituted aromatic or nonaromatic, saturated or unsaturated ring which contains 3-8 members, or  $\text{R}^1$  is  $=\text{O}$  or an oxime, oximeether, oximeester or ketal thereof;

m is 0-4;

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each optionally substituted by one or more R'';

wherein each R'' is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, acyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, halo, OR, NR<sub>2</sub>, SR, NRCOR, alkyl-OOCR, RCO, COOR, and CN, wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, or heteroaryl where two adjacent R'' groups may form a fused ring;

wherein H shown as a ring member is N or CR'

wherein R' is hydrogen or

(a) alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, acyl, aroyl, heteroaryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl, heteroalkynyl, heteroalkylaryl, NH-aroyl or halo; or

(b) OR, NR<sub>2</sub>, SR, SOR, SO<sub>2</sub>R, OCOR, NRCOR, NRCONR<sub>2</sub>, NRCONR<sub>2</sub>, RCO, COOR, alkyl-OOCR, SO<sub>3</sub>R, CONR<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>, NRSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>, CN, CF<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>Si, and NO<sub>2</sub>, wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl or heteroaryl;

Z is -W<sub>1</sub>-COX<sub>j</sub>Y wherein Y is COR<sup>3</sup> or tetrazole; 1,2,3-triazole; 1,2,4-triazole; or imidazole; R<sup>3</sup> is H or a noninterfering substituent which is straight or branched chain alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroarylalkyl, each optionally substituted with halo, alkyl, heteroalkyl, SR, SOR, SO<sub>2</sub>R, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>, OR, NR<sub>2</sub>, OCOR, NRCOR, NRCONR<sub>2</sub>, NRSO<sub>2</sub>R, NRSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>, OCONR<sub>2</sub>, CN, COOR, CONR<sub>2</sub>, COR, or R<sub>3</sub>Si wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl or heteroaryl, or

wherein R<sup>3</sup> is OR, NR<sub>2</sub>, SR, NRCONR<sub>2</sub>, OCONR<sub>2</sub> or NRSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>, wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl or heteroaryl, and

wherein two R attached to the same atom may form a 3-8 member carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring and wherein said ring may further be substituted by alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, each optionally substituted with halo, SR, OR,

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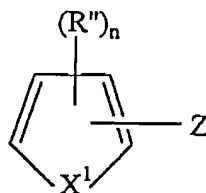
NR<sub>2</sub>, OCOR, NRCOR, NRCONR<sub>2</sub>, NRSO<sub>2</sub>R, NRSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>, OCONR<sub>2</sub>, or R<sub>3</sub>Si wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl or heteroaryl wherein two R attached to the same atom may form a 3-8 member ring, optionally substituted as above defined, each of W and X is an alkylene of 2-6 Å, and each of i and j is independently 0 or 1.

2-5. (canceled)

6. (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein each of i and j is 0.

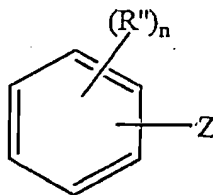
7-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein the portion of said compound represented by Ar<sup>2</sup>-Z is selected from the following:



(I)

wherein n is 0, 1 or 2; X<sup>1</sup> is NR'' or CR''<sub>2</sub>; and each R'' is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, acyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, halo, OR, NR<sub>2</sub>, SR, NRCOR, alkyl-OOCR, RCO, COOR, and CN, wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, or heteroaryl; and two adjacent R'' groups may form a fused ring;



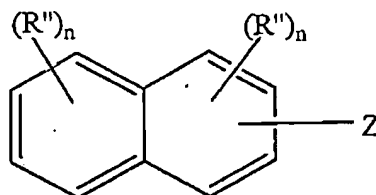
(II)

wherein n is 0-4; each R'' is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, acyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, halo, OR, NR<sub>2</sub>, SR, NRCOR, alkyl-OOCR, RCO,

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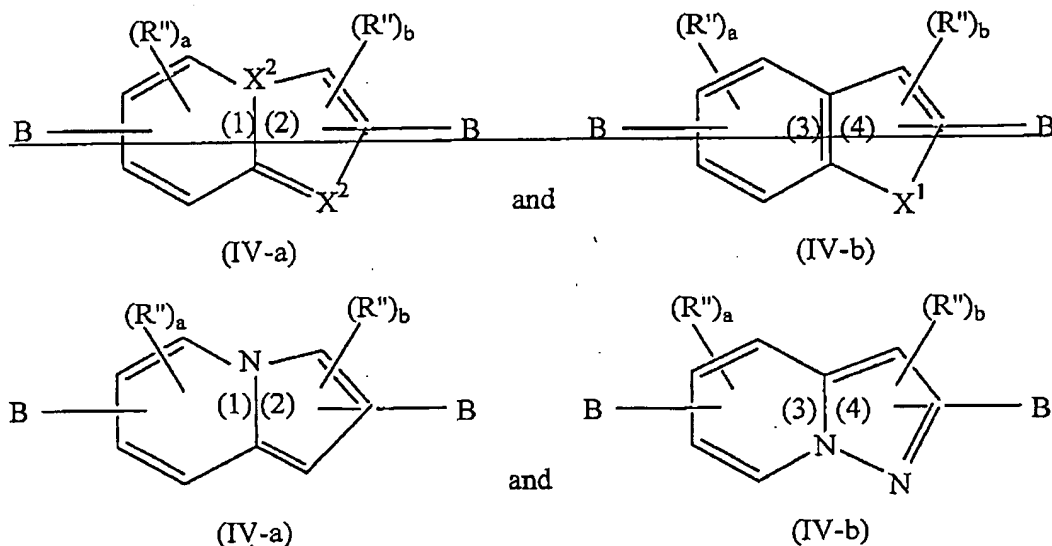
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COOR, and CN, wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, or heteroaryl where two adjacent R'' groups may form a fused ring; and one or more ring carbons may be optionally replaced with nitrogen;



(III)

wherein each n is independently 0 to 3; each R'' is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, acyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, halo, OR, NR<sub>2</sub>, SR, NRCOR, alkyl-OOCR, RCO, COOR, and CN, wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, or heteroaryl, where two adjacent R'' groups may form a fused ring; and one or more ring carbons may be optionally replaced with nitrogen;

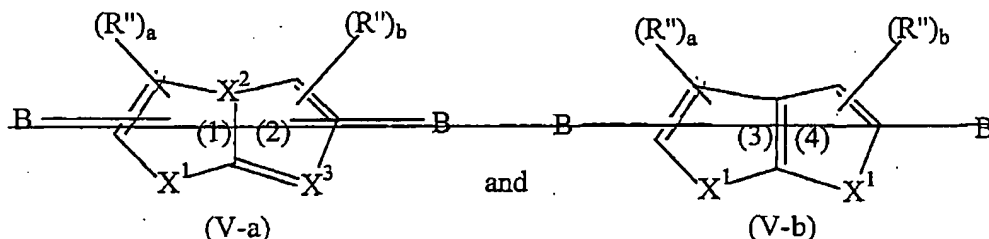


wherein one B is absent and the other is Z; wherein a is 0 to 3; b is 0-1 each X<sup>2</sup> is independently N or CR''; X<sup>1</sup> is NR'' or CR<sub>2</sub>; each R'' is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, acyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, halo, OR, NR<sub>2</sub>, SR, NRCOR, alkyl-OOCR, RCO, COOR, and CN, wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, or heteroaryl where two adjacent R'' groups may form a fused ring; wherein one or more of the ring

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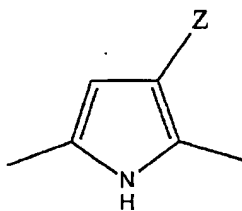
carbons that are at positions other than  $X^2$  or  $X^1$  and that are also not bound to Z or to the remainder of the molecule can be optionally replaced with N; and



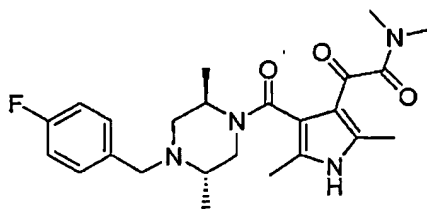
wherein one B is absent and the other is Z; a is 0-4; b is 0-3; each  $X^1$  is independently  $NR''$  or  $CR''$ ;  $X^2$  and  $X^3$  are independently N or  $CR''$ ; each  $R''$  is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, acyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, halo, OR,  $NR_2$ , SR,  $NRCOR$ , alkyl OOCR, RCO, COOR, and CN, wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl or heteroaryl where two adjacent  $R''$  groups can optionally form a fused ring; wherein one or more of the ring carbons that are at positions other than  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$  or  $X^3$ , and that are also not bound to Z or to the remainder of the molecule, can be optionally replaced with N.

11-15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented): The compound of claim 10 wherein  $Ar^2-Z$  is:



17. (previously presented): The compound of claim 16 where the compound is:



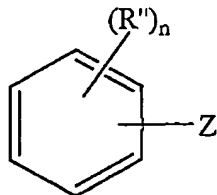
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18. (previously presented): The compound of claim 10 wherein  $\text{Ar}^2\text{-Z}$  is:



19. (previously presented): The compound of claim 18 wherein each  $\text{R}''$  is methoxy.

20. (previously presented): The compound of claim 19 wherein n is 1.

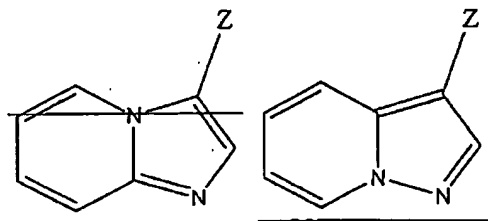
21-22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented): The compound of claim 10 wherein  $\text{Ar}^2\text{-Z}$  is structure (III).

24. (previously presented): The compound of claim 10 wherein  $\text{Ar}^2\text{-Z}$  is structure (IV-a) or (IV-b).

25. (currently amended): The compound of claim 24 wherein  $\text{Ar}^2\text{-Z}$  is ~~(IV-a)~~ and both  ~~$\text{X}^2$  in structure (IV-a) are nitrogen~~ (IV-b).

26. (currently amended): The compound of claim 25 wherein  $\text{Ar}^2\text{-Z}$  is:



27. (canceled)

28-42. (canceled)

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43. (previously presented): The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar<sup>1</sup> is optionally substituted phenyl.

44. (original): The compound of claim 43 wherein said optional substitution is by halo, OR, or alkyl.

45. (original): The compound of claim 44 wherein said phenyl is unsubstituted or has a single substituent.

46. (canceled)

47. (previously presented): The compound of claim 1 wherein each R<sup>1</sup> is halo, OR, or alkyl.

48. (original): The compound of claim 47 wherein m is 0, 1, or 2.

49. (original): The compound of claim 48 wherein m is 2 and both R<sup>1</sup> are alkyl.

50-52. (canceled)

53. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition for treating conditions characterized by enhanced p38- $\alpha$  activity which composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 along with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

54-56. (canceled)

57. (previously presented): A method to treat a condition mediated by p38- $\alpha$  kinase comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof, wherein said condition is multiple sclerosis, IBD, rheumatoid

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arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis, gouty arthritis, sepsis, endotoxic shock, asthma, adult respiratory distress syndrome, reperfusion injury, psoriasis, cerebral malaria, chronic pulmonary inflammatory disease, silicosis, pulmonary sarcosis, a bone resorption disease, graft-versus-host reaction, Crohn's Disease, ulcerative colitis, or pyresis.

58-60. (canceled)

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